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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/757,435

01/15/2004

Tuija Hurta

60282.00289

4108

32294 7590 11/28/2007
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EXAMINER

SHIN, KYUNG H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2143

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/28/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,435

Applicant(s)

HURTTA ET AL.

Examiner

Kyung H. Shin

Art Unit

2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responding to application filed on **1-15-2004** with priority date of **2-21-2003**.
2. Claims **1 - 27** are pending. Claims **1, 4, 5, 7 - 13, 16, 19, 21 - 24** have been amended. Claims **25 - 27** are new. Claims **1, 13** are independent.

Responses to Remarks

3. **Applicant's arguments filed 9/12/2007 have been fully considered and are not persuasive.**

3.1 Applicant argues that the reference prior art does not disclose, "generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages in the network control node". (see remarks Page 13) ; "generating a single policy decision confirmation" (see Remarks Page 13)

Widegren discloses the generation of a single policy decision message. (see Widegren paragraph [0157], lines 4-10; paragraph [0160], lines 2-3; paragraph [0142], lines 4-9: single policy decision)

3.2 Applicant argues that the reference prior art does not disclose, "sending the single policy decision message to the user entity". (see Remarks Page 13)

Widegren discloses the transmission of the single policy decision to a user entity.

Widegren discloses that a single policy decision is sent to client (user entity) as per claim limitation. (see Widegren paragraph [0157], lines 4-10; paragraph [0160], lines 2-3; paragraph [0142], lines 4-9: "The COPS client (EP) can request policy information from the PCF triggered by a QoS signaling request. Alternatively, policy decisions made by the PCF can be pushed to the COPS client (EP) based on an external out-of-band QoS service request, e.g., triggered by SIP signaling. These policy decisions are stored in the COPS client in a local policy decision point accessed by the EP to make admission control decisions without requiring additional interaction with the PCF."; policy decision pushed (transferred) to client (user entity))

3.3 Applicant argues, rejection of dependent claims. (see remarks Page 13)

Arguments for dependent claims are based upon above arguments for independent claims 1, 13. The successful responses to arguments for independent claims 1, 13, also successfully respond to the current arguments against the dependent claims 2-12 and 14-24.

3.4 Applicant argues that the reference prior art does not disclose, limitations for new claims 25-27. (see Remarks Page 13)

Remarks for Claims 25-27 are moot due to new grounds of rejection for these specific claims.

3.5 The examiner has considered the applicant's remarks concerning a method for establishing sessions in a network comprising a user entity, a network control node and a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information. The method comprises the steps of receiving a session establishing request at the network control node, forwarding a policy request message from the network control node to each network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific policy information required for the session to be established. Processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and sending the policy decision message to the network control node from each of the network nodes having received the policy request message. Generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages in the network control node, and sending the single policy decision message to the user entity.

After an additional analysis of the applicant's invention, remarks, and a search of the available prior art, it was determined that the current set of prior art consisting of Widegren (20020036983) discloses the applicant's invention including disclosures in Remarks dated September 12, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent,

except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claim 1 - 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by **Widegren et al.** (US PG PUB No. **20020036983**).

Regarding Claim 1, Widegren discloses a method for establishing sessions in a network, the method comprising:

- a) receiving a session establishing request at a network control node, (see Widegren paragraph [0082], lines 2-6; paragraph [0083], lines 7-10; paragraph [0097], lines 9-13: request for session initiation; paragraph [0055], lines 1-6: multiple nodes with subscription information)
- b) forwarding a policy request message from the network control node to each network node of a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information which comprise policy information required for the session to be established, (see Widegren paragraph [0089], lines 1-8; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: forward policy request)
- c) processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and sending the policy decision message to the network control node from each of the network nodes having received the policy request message, (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6; paragraph [0128], lines 5-12; paragraph [0130], lines 3-5: generate policy decision for each node, each node accessed for policy type information (resource availability))

- d) generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages in the network control node, (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6: generate single policy decision) and
- e) sending the single policy decision message to the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0132], lines 1-6; paragraph [0101], lines 1-5: send policy decision, accepted or rejected)

Regarding Claims 2, 14, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 1, 13, wherein the network control element is itself a network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information. (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: GGSN, control network resources (network control element), storage subscriber information)

Regarding Claims 3, 15, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 1, 13, wherein the network control element is a network service element serving the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: control network resources (network control element), interface to General Packet Radio System (GPRS), serving user entity network node)

Regarding Claims 4, 16, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 2, 14, further comprising selecting the network control element being a network node storing subscriber specific information by a network connection serving element

(GGSN) serving the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0026], lines 1-3; paragraph [0055], lines 1-6: GGSN network node implemented, interface between different networks (gateway))

Regarding Claims 5, 17, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 4, 13, wherein in the selecting, a default network node storing subscriber specific information is selected. (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 4-6; paragraph [0058], lines 5-8: default parameters, default storage of subscriber information)

Regarding Claims 6, 18, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 1, 13, wherein the single policy decision message comprises an authorization token from each node storing subscriber specific information. (see Widegren paragraph [0155], lines 1-5; paragraph [0132], lines 1-6: authorization token, "session thru" information, communications session initiated)

Regarding Claims 7, 19, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 1, 13, wherein the user entity is located in a visited operator domain, and the method further comprising:

- a) inserting policy information into a session set-up protocol message, (see Widegren paragraph [0132], lines 1-6; paragraph [0137], lines 1-4; paragraph [0143], lines 1-4: SIP, session initiation protocol, policy information utilized)

- b) sending the session set-up protocol message to a network control element in the home domain of the user entity, (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: GGSN, control network resources (network control element))
- c) forwarding the policy information to a home subscriber database node, (see Widegren paragraph [0089], lines 1-8; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: forward policy request)
- d) extracting an address of a home node storing subscriber specific information of the user entity from the subscriber database node, (see Widegren paragraph [0126], lines 9-12; paragraph [0143], lines 1-4: SIP utilizes IP address as endpoint indications, policy information)
- e) creating home policy information based on the extracted address, (see Widegren paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: usage (policy) information determined) and
- f) forwarding the home policy information to a network control element of the visited network. (see Widegren paragraph [0089], lines 1-8; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: forward policy request)

Regarding Claims 8, 20, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 7, 19, wherein the policy information comprises an authentication token, and the home policy information created in the creating step comprises a home authentication token. (see Widegren paragraph [0155], lines 1-5; paragraph [0132], lines 1-6: authorization token, session thru information utilized to initiate communications session)

Regarding Claims 9, 21, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 7, 19, further comprising: creating a visited policy information in the network control element of the visited network. (see Widegren paragraph [0087], lines 1-4; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: GGSN interface between networks (visited, home); paragraph [0128], lines 5-12: policy information processed)

Regarding Claims 10, 22, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 7, 19, wherein in the forwarding, the home policy information is inserted into another session set-up protocol message. (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 3-8; paragraph [0137], lines 1-4; paragraph [0143], lines 1-4: policy information, SIP, session initiation protocol)

Regarding Claims 11, 23, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 7, 19, wherein the session set-up protocol is a session initiation protocol (SIP). (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 3-8; paragraph [0137], lines 1-4; paragraph [0143], lines 1-4: SIP, session initiation protocol)

Regarding Claims 12, 24, Widegren discloses the method, system according to claims 1, 13, wherein the network node storing subscriber specific information is a policy control function (PCF). (see Widegren paragraph [0087], lines 3-6; paragraph [0096], line 7-8: GGSN, Decision Point (DP) (or policy server) can be inside or outside GGSN,

DP is a policy control function (PCF) node)

Regarding Claim 13, Widegren discloses a system for establishing sessions in a network comprising:

- a) a user entity; (see Widegren paragraph [0097], lines 9-13: user entity)
- b) a network control node; (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: GGSN, control network resources (network control element))
and
- c) a plurality of network nodes configured to store subscriber specific information,
(see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6: multiple nodes with subscription information)
- d) wherein the network control node comprises a receiving unit configured to receive a session establishing request, and to forward a policy request message to each network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information comprising policy information required for the session to be established, (see Widegren paragraph [0082], lines 2-6; paragraph [0083], lines 7-10; paragraph [0097], lines 9-13: session request; paragraph [0089], lines 1-8; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: forward policy request)
- e) the nodes storing subscriber specific information comprise a processing unit configured to process the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and to send the policy decision message to the network control node,

- (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6; paragraph [0128], lines 5-12; paragraph [0130], lines 3-5: generate a policy decision for each node) and
- f) the network control node comprises a generating unit configured to generate a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages, and to send the single policy decision message to the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6; paragraph [0128], lines 5-12: generate a policy decision for each node; paragraph [0132], lines 1-6; paragraph [0101], lines 1-5: send policy decision, accepted or rejected)

Regarding Claim 25, Widegren discloses a system for establishing sessions in a network comprising:

- a) a user entity; (see Widegren paragraph [0097], lines 9-13: user entity)
- b) a network control node; (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: GGSN, control network resources (network control element)) and
- c) a plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6: multiple nodes with subscription information), wherein the network control node comprises means for receiving a session establishing request, and for forwarding a policy request message to each network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information comprising policy information required for the session to be established. (see Widegren paragraph [0082], lines 2-6; paragraph [0083], lines

- 7-10; paragraph [0097], lines 9-13: session request; paragraph [0089], lines 1-8; paragraph [0130], lines 1-5: forward policy request)
- d) the nodes storing subscriber specific information comprise means for processing the policy request message to generate a policy decision message and for sending the policy decision message to the network control node, (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6; paragraph [0128], lines 5-12; paragraph [0130], lines 3-5: generate a policy decision for each node) and
- e) the network control node comprises means for generating a single policy decision confirmation message based on the received policy decision messages, and for sending the single policy decision message to the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0131], lines 1-6; paragraph [0128], lines 5-12: generate a policy decision for each node; paragraph [0132], lines 1-6; paragraph [0101], lines 1-5: send policy decision, accepted or rejected; paragraph [0157], lines 4-10; paragraph [0160], lines 2-3; paragraph [0142], lines 4-9: send policy decision to user entity)

Regarding Claim 26, Widegren discloses the system according to claim 25, wherein the network control element is itself a network node of the plurality of network nodes storing subscriber specific information. (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: GGSN, control network resources (network control element), storage subscriber information)

Regarding Claim 27, Widegren discloses the system according to claim 25, wherein the network control element is a network service element serving the user entity. (see Widegren paragraph [0055], lines 1-6; paragraph [0087], lines 1-3: control network resources (network control element), interface to General Packet Radio System (GPRS), serving user entity network node)

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyung H. Shin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3920. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

K H S

Kyung Hye Shin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2143

KHS
November 13, 2007


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